

**Disability and Work
Division**

**Access to Work:
Official Statistics**

January 2010

Executive summary

26,540 individuals were helped through Access to Work between April 2009 and September 2009.

32,090 individuals were helped through Access to Work in the 2008/09 financial year.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Summary

This summary contains figures on Access to Work from April 2007, up to and including **September 2009**. Annex A provides more detailed breakdowns. Some of the figures given for recent months may be subject to revision as more complete data becomes available.

2 Headline Statistics

These statistics are figures for all Access to Work customers in the current financial year.

2.1 Numbers Helped and Continuing to Benefit from Access to Work

2.1.1 Numbers Helped (April 2009 to September 2009)

26,540 individuals helped, of which:

- 18,750 were existing customers
- 7,790 were new customers

2.1.2 Numbers Continuing to Benefit from Access to Work (April 2009 to September 2009)

- 13,260 individuals continuing to benefit from Access to Work¹

¹ Number of individuals who are not counted within the numbers helped, but for whom there is a Special Aids and Equipment element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element was available within the previous two years, and the individual is deemed to still be benefiting from this

3 Purpose of Access to Work

3.1 The purpose of Access to Work is to:

- Help pay towards the equipment an individual needs at work, a communicator at job interviews, adapting premises to meet an individual's needs, or paying a support worker. It can also pay towards the cost of getting to work if an individual cannot use public transport.

An individual may be able to get Access to Work if they are:

- In a paid job
- Unemployed and about to start a job
- Unemployed and about to start a Work Trial
- Self-employed

and their disability or health condition stops them from being able to do parts of their job.

An individual's disability or health condition may not have a big effect on what they do each day, but may have a long-term effect on how well they can do their job.

The amount of help which an individual may receive from Access to Work will vary depending on how long they have been employed, what support they need and whether they are self-employed.

Access to Work can pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs if an individual is:

- Unemployed and starting a new job
- Self-employed
- Working for an employer and have been in the job for less than six weeks

Whatever an individual's employment status, Access to Work will also pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs of help with:

- Support workers
- Fares to work
- Communicator support at interview

Access to Work pays a proportion of the costs of support if all of the following apply to an individual:

- They're working for an employer

- They've been in the job for six weeks or more
- They need special equipment or adaptations to premises

The precise level of cost sharing is agreed between the employer and the Access to Work adviser.

After between one and three years, Access to Work will review an individuals circumstances and the support they're receiving.

Annex A: Access to Work Breakdowns

Totals may not sum due to rounding. See Annex B for definitions used in tables below.

Table 1: Number of individuals helped each financial year, by whether an existing customer or a new customer helped

Customer Type	2007-08	2008-09	Q1 and Q2 2009-10	Total numbers helped since April 2007
Existing customer	15,470	18,110	18,750	-
New customer helped	12,260	13,980	7,790	-
Total	27,720	32,090	26,540	52,460

Table 2 – Further numbers who continue to benefit each financial year

2007-08	2008-09	Q1 and Q2 2009-10	Total who have continued to benefit since April 2007
12,900	11,410	13,260	26,300

Table 3 – Numbers of new starts on Access to Work programme

2007-08	2008-09	Q1 and Q2 2009-10	Total new starts since April 2007
11,130	13,540	7,560	32,230

Table 4 – Numbers helped in current year to date, by primary medical condition

Primary Medical Condition	
Missing/Unknown	20
Arms or hands	1,350
Legs or feet	1,740
Back or neck	4,020
Stomach, liver, kidney or digestion	80
Heart, blood, blood pressure or circulation	190
Chest or breathing	120
Skin conditions and severe disfigurement	10
Difficulty in hearing	4,300
Difficulty in seeing	4,390
Difficulty in speaking	60
Learning disability	1,470
Progressive illness	1,810
Dyslexia	1,510
Epilepsy	960
Diabetes	100
Mental health condition	260
Cerebral Palsy	260
Spina Bifida	90
Other	3,820
Total	26,540

Table 5 – Numbers of awards granted in current year to date, by element type

Element Type	
Adaptation to Premises	100
Adaptation to Vehicles	100
Communication Support at Interview	160
Miscellaneous	50
Miscellaneous with Cost Share	30
Travel in Work	860
Special Aids and Equipment	5,360
Support Worker	8,320
Travel to Work	10,860
AtW Assessment	6,790
Total	32,630

Annex B: Explanation of Access to Work Tables

Table 1 - Each individual is counted once in each year. This shows the number of individuals who have been assessed within the year or for whom there is an element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element has been made available within the year.

Table 2 - Further numbers who continue to benefit with receipt of Special Aids and Equipment (SAE) in previous two years. Each individual is counted once in each year. The number of individuals who are not counted within Table 1 but for whom there is a SAE element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element was available within the previous two years, and the individual is deemed to still be benefiting from this.

Table 3: Each person is only counted once. This measure differs from the numbers helped as it simply counts new customers who have received support in each period. The number of new starters is increasing over time.

Table 4: Primary medical condition recorded is based on a self-definition of an individual's medical condition, and the condition recorded reflects the barrier the customer faces in finding employment.

Table 5: A person may receive more than one element. Therefore the sum of the awards granted is greater than the numbers helped.